

// A special meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg, recessed from November 8, was held on the 22nd day of November, 2005, starting at 1:00 P.M., Second Floor Training Room, City Hall, Carl B. Hutcherson, Jr., President, presiding. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a work session regarding several items. The following Members were present:

Present: Dodson, Foster, Gillette, Helgeson, Johnson, Seiffert, Hutcherson

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Absent:

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// Council Member Seiffert presented a PowerPoint presentation chronicling the revitalization of the downtown area and the surrounding neighborhoods. Council Member Seiffert explained that the presentation was developed with the assistance of the Department of Communications and Marketing, and that he has received positive feedback from community groups that have been shown the presentation.

// City Manager Kimball Payne stated that at the last work session Council directed that staff determine the costs to erect larger pole mounted signs designating Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard within the commercially developed areas of the corridor. Mr. Payne went on to say that he has now determined that the only key issue that he needs Council's direction on is whether or not to pursue the placement of signs designating the corridor on top of each existing street sign. Several Council Members commented that there may have been some misunderstanding when Council used the term "overlay", but reaffirmed that City Council did not direct that signs be placed on top of every existing street sign in the corridor, especially since there is no consistency in the street signs that are currently in the corridor. Other Council Members commented that the current signs are similar in size with other signs in the corridor, but if private individuals wanted to pay the additional costs for larger signs, then they could do so. Mayor Hutcherson also expressed concern regarding the disrepair of the monument in front of E. C. Glass High School which honors the Lynchburg soldiers who died in World War I and indicated that he would like to see something more visible to honor veterans. Following discussion, and on motion of Council Member Dodson, seconded by Vice Mayor Foster, Council by the following recorded vote reaffirmed that the City Manager was not instructed to place signs designating the Martin Luther King, Jr. corridor on top of every existing street sign in the corridor and directed that City Manager Kimball Payne use his own judgment regarding any potential changes to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard Corridor signage:

Ayes: Dodson, Foster, Gillette, Helgeson, Johnson, Seiffert, Hutcherson

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Noes:

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// City Manager Kimball Payne explained that since City Council discussed the establishment of a Regional Airport Authority during its retreat in August, no further changes have occurred that would impact consideration of the proposal. Following discussion, and in response to Mr. Payne's inquiry, City Council agreed that staff should continue to pursue the establishment of a Regional Airport Authority.

// City Manager Kimball Payne explained that the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation to cap the total amount of state funding provided to the localities for personal property tax relief, and as a result, the amount of relief provided for an individual citizen will no longer be a fixed percentage established by the

Commonwealth. Mr. Payne stated that each locality will receive what will, in effect, be a fixed amount block grant each year to be used for personal property tax relief and that the proportion of an individual taxpayer's personal property tax obligation that will be covered by state relief will shrink over time due to population growth, increased car ownership, and increased vehicle values. Mr. Payne went on to say that each locality will need to make policy determinations to determine how the tax relief will be apportioned to individual taxpayers and that the policy choices being recommended by staff are to use the "specific relief" method of computing and reflecting relief, to use a single rate as the method of allocating relief, and to provide an exemption for vehicles having a value of less than \$1,000. In response to questioning, Mr. Payne explained that City Council will set the percentage relief provided to City residents each year during the budget process. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Payne noted that adoption of the proposed ordinance to implement the Personal Property Tax Relief Act is scheduled for City Council's 5:00 p.m. meeting.

// During roll call, Council Member Johnson reported a crosswalk at 5th and Madison Streets. Council Member Dodson inquired regarding inclusion of the Legacy Museum on Wayfinding signage. In response to Council questioning, City Manager Kimball Payne stated that the construction in front of the Walmart store on Wards Road should be completed next week. Vice Mayor Foster requested information regarding the maintenance responsibility of the monument sign in front of the E. C. Glass High School. In response to questioning, City Manager Payne stated that he would inquire regarding recent efforts of Lynch's Landing to bring together various local art groups. City Council asked that staff confirm that January 24 at 11:30 a.m. would be agreeable with the Industrial Development Authority Board for a joint meeting.

// The meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Clerk of Council